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UNCLAS DJIBOUTI 000707

SIPDIS

FOR OBO DIRECTOR WILLIAMS FROM AMBASSADOR RAGSDALE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ABLD](#) [AMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [DJ](#)

SUBJECT: DJIBOUTI - IMMEDIATE ACTION TO RESOLVE ACCESS ISSUE

REF: A. SECSTATE 134321

[B](#). DJIBOUTI 670

[C](#). DJIBOUTI 668

[D](#). E-MAIL HARTUNG/MCGOWAN 7/13/05

[1](#)1. (U) Djibouti has accepted the USG's first preference for resolving the impasse over access roads to the New Embassy Compound. It will accept the route closest to the presidential compound, delineated as a composite orange line in a map attachment to Ref D. Ambassador asked for a diplomatic note expressing same from the Ministry, which was provided. Embassy's translation is included at para 5.

[1](#)2. (U) Ambassador presented on 7/25 to Minister of Foreign Affairs Mahmoud Ali Yousuf both Ref A options for access roads to the new Embassy site, citing a USG preference for the option that passes close to the existing presidential residence and grounds. She provided the Minister with a letter from her to him further enunciating this preference, as well as describing a second option closer to the roundabout and corresponding to the green line also included in the attachment to Ref D. Along with the letter, Ambassador provided the Minister with a map which outlined graphically these preferences.

[1](#)3. (U) Mahmoud was unable to give instant approval for either option and promised to get back to the Ambassador before the end of the day. This he did several hours later with a phone call confirming Djibouti's acceptance of our preferred option closest to the presidential compound and a follow-up dipnote with map.

[1](#)4. (U) Mahmoud again raised the issue of payment for the land. Post believes that with Djibouti's concurrence on the USG request for the proposed access route, all outstanding elements to complete a final purchase agreement are now in place. Attorney Martinet's title search results, pre-certification documentation, etc. are enroute via DHL to the Embassy.

[1](#)5. (U) Following is Embassy's translation of the text of the diplomatic note from the Government of Djibouti. (Embassy confirms that "Proposal A" mentioned coincides with our first option.)

Begin text:

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Republic of Djibouti
Unity-Equality-Peace

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

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No. 618/05/Fax/MAECI
Djibouti 25 July 2005

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America in Djibouti and, concerning the two proposals A and B for access routes submitted by the Ambassador of the United States of America to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, has the honor to inform of the agreement of the Djiboutian authorities to proposal A mentioned in the enclosed map.

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation seizes this occasion to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America the assurances of its high consideration.

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End text.

RAGSDALE